



2020 Title V Needs Assessment Summary June 2020



Children's Health

The Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Program promotes and improves the health and wellbeing of Alaska's mothers, children, young adults and families. Every five years, states are required to conduct a comprehensive, statewide needs assessment to assist with strategic planning and resource allocation. States survey the community and review data in order to select priority areas to focus their work for the 5-year grant cycle. Below is a summary of needs assessment findings and priority areas for Alaska's child population.

Strengths + Successes

Protective Factors

- 94.7% of 3-year-olds are very likely to have caring relationships with at least one adult other than his or her parents ¹

Oral Health

- During 2009–2017, the percentage of Alaska 3-year-olds who first visited a dentist or dental care provider prior to their third birthday significantly increased from 38% to 63%. ¹
- Among 3-year-olds, there was a decline in consumption of any sugary drinks on the previous day (from 42.8% in 2008 to 30.6% in 2018). ¹



95%

of mothers with **3-YEAR OLD CHILDREN**
know someone who would listen if they needed to talk ¹

Collaboration

Since 2015, the Alaska Title V Program has increased collaboration with non-federal partners to support work to improve child maltreatment data and the [ALCANLink surveillance project](#).

Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)

Alaska has a gold standard ASQ system, with each geographic area of the state coordinated into one system.²

- From 2015 to 2019, there was a 106% increase in Ages & Stages Questionnaire-3 (ASQ-3) developmental screenings completed.

Challenges, Gaps, + Needs

Mortality Rate

- Alaska's child and teen death rates (ages 1-19) are twice the national average.
 - 52 per 100,000, compared to 26 per 100,000 nationally.³

Challenge: Childcare

Lack of access to childcare can add considerable stress to families with young children. The cost and availability of childcare is frequently cited as a challenge by Alaskan mothers of 3-year-olds.¹

During the needs assessment, one priority area was identified to improve children's health:

Child Abuse and Neglect

Screened in maltreatment reports for children ages 0-11 increased 19.6% between 2015 and 2019.⁴

- The average age of first Office of Children's Services (OCS) contact is 2 years.⁵
- Among children born in Alaska, by the age of 10 years:
 - 38% will be reported to OCS⁶
 - 31% will have a screened in report⁶
 - 13% will have a substantiated report⁶
- Rate of unique substantiated child maltreatment victims ages 0-17: 14.2 per 1,000 in 2018 down slightly from 15.6 per 1,000 in 2015⁷

7% of children born
in Alaska will be removed
from their home
BEFORE AGE 10⁶



“A health equity approach and more non-traditional partnering would help broaden the program work to address some of these issues for children.”

– Needs assessment survey respondent

Title V Priorities for 2020-2024

Increase the number of children who are living in safe, stable, nurturing environments.

Reduce substance misuse (including alcohol, tobacco and drugs) among caregivers of infants and toddlers and women of childbearing age.

Increase or promote equitable access to medical and pediatric specialty care and family supports for Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHCN).

Increase safe and healthy relationships.

Increase connection to behavioral and mental health information, training and resources for parents and caregivers, and providers who serve women, adolescents, and children.

Improve social supports, with a focus on wellbeing and resilience, to prevent and reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Strengthen systems, services and partnerships to help families and health care providers respond to the impact of a collective emergency, disaster or other trauma.

Key Strategies

To address the challenges, gaps and needs that were highlighted during the needs assessment, the State of Alaska's Section of Women's, Children's and Family Health developed strategies to guide actions for the next five years. A few key strategies are listed below. The complete strategy list is included in the 2020-2024 Title V Five-Year State Action Plan, which will be available on the [Alaska Title V](#) website once finalized.

- Support and expand statewide systems for parents and caregivers, providers, educators and community-based service agencies in use of standardized screening tools and provider education for developmental screening.
- Review all child deaths through the Maternal Child Death Review (MCDR), generate actionable recommendations for all preventable deaths and increase awareness about the MCDR program among the public, clinicians and policymakers.
- Support school nurses and counselors with injury prevention education and best practice information on trauma informed care.

The Title V Administrative Agency in Alaska is the Section of Women's, Children's and Family Health, located in the Department of Health and Social Services.

For more information, contact:
Rebekah Morisse, RN, BSN, MPH
Title V MCH Director
Phone: (907) 334-2424
rebekah.morisse@alaska.gov

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5. Alaska Longitudinal Child Abuse and Neglect Linkage (ALCANLink), 2020
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7. National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System